



Talking With Writers and Hearing Their Voices

Background:

Traditional instruction poises teachers at the front of the room where they may define new learning and assign new tasks. The Studio approach requires a significant shift in where teachers are placed within the learning environment and how they determine what needs to be defined. Writing isn't assigned in Studio—it's chosen. It's owned by the writer, and the teacher begins all work by noticing where students are gifted, talented, and capable. Strengths are leveraged, needs are defined, and teachers actively observe and listen to writers at work in an effort to understand them before acting.

How We Used the Work Included in this Center:

Talking with writers can be difficult. The prompts provided support teachers at each phase of the writing process around each dimension of writer's practice.

Think and Ink:

How do you make time to confer with every writer in your room?

What do you know about every writer's expertise, experiences, and interests?

How do you come to know your students and help them turn these things into meaningful ideas?

How do you talk with writers?

Share your ideas on the Think and Ink sheet provided.

©Angela Stockman, The WNY Young Writers' Studio 2010 stockmanangela@gmail.com

